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The Netherlands

Poultry and Products

Update of the Influenza Outbreaks in The Netherlands 2003

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Report Highlights:

The Avian Influenza outbreak has spread to the main Dutch poultry production region. The Dutch Product Board expects that the egg production could nearly half in 2002.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1], NL

Measures by the Dutch Government

On April 4, after the Avian Influenza outbreak spread to Limburg, the Dutch MinAg imposed a embargo on the movement of any live animal, product or vehicle to or from a poultry farm. On April 10, the MinAg substituted the standstill by restrictions which divide the country into seven zones (see the attached map). It is prohibited to move any vehicle from a location in one zone where poultry is present, to another location with poultry in another zone. The Ministry also imposed three Control Areas around the suspected and positively diagnosed farms. These Control Areas correspond to or are located in the zones A, B, F and G (see attached map). Transport, import and export of poultry products is permitted only under strict conditions on hygiene, whether inside or outside these Control Areas.

Status of the Outbreaks and Culls

On April 4, the Avian Influenza outbreak spread to the Northern part of the Province of Limburg, where about half of the Dutch poultry flock is located. During the past two weeks, the number of suspected and positively diagnosed farms increased from 198 to 241. Of these farms, 216 have been positively diagnosed for Avian Influenza. As of April 15, 14.2 million birds had been culled from a total of about 100 million.

Consequences for the Dutch Egg Sector

Due to the Avian Influenza outbreaks, eggs prices have increased from about five Euros per 100 to a record level of nearly seven Euros. The Dutch Product Board has estimated that annual egg production will decline from about 10 billion last year to about 5 billion this year. The lower egg production is mainly affecting egg exports, normally about 8 billion per year.

Dutch Broilers are Next

The virus has now moved to the broiler production area in the Southeastern part of the country, where chicken numbers are estimated to be about 50 million. Destruction numbers could range from as low as 20 million birds now to as high as 50 million birds. In 2002, the Dutch poultry sector produced 735,000 MT of poultry meat, most of which was exported.